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S P E E C H

Delivered by the Honorable

William Pierrepont

second Son to the right Honorable  
the Earle of Kingstone,  
against

S<sup>r</sup> ROBERT BERKLEY  
Knight, one of the Justices of  
the Kings Bench.

At a Conference of both Houses in the  
Painted Chamber, July 6.  
1641.



LONDON,  
Printed for *Henrie Hood*. 1641.

STEPHEN

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Second Son to the right Honorable  
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MY LORDS,



Am commanded to present to your Lordships these Articles, with which the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeses of the Commons house of Parliament, in their own name, and in the name of all the Commons of *England*, im-

peach Sir *Robert Berkley*, Knight, one of the Justices of his Majesties Court of Kings bench in maintenance of their accusation of high Treason, and other great misdemeanours. The Articles they desire may be read.

*The Articles were read by Mr. Newport.*

The high Treason is in the first Article, in his endeavours to subvert the fundamentall Laws of this Realm, and to introduce an Arbitrary and Tyrannicall government, which have been lately adjudged Treason, in the cause of the Earle of *Strafford*.

The other Articles (of his opinions, Certificates, judgements, denials of the benefits of our Laws, which have been read to your Lordships) prove the first. Our goods, our lands, our bodies, the peace of a good conscience are by him given up to Arbitrary, Tyrannicall Government.

Our Ancestors have with great care provided for Judges to know the Laws, to make them just, or clear them from being evil; We have Innes of



Court for the peculiar study of our Lawes; Judges from thence onely chosen; seldome any but such as have been twenty years there; Honours and revenues are given to Judges, encouragements to do well; this Judge had these; Judges are sworn according to Law to serve the King, and his people, according to Law to counsell the King, and for not so doing, to be at his will for body, lands and goods; this Judge took that oath; the Lawes the Judges study, impose the greatest punishments on unjust Judges, shew that those punishments have been inflicted; more could not be done to perswade or fear a Judge.

His offences shew in him great ambition, yet he was most timorous of displeasing the great men then in power, he did not only forbear doing what he was sworn to do, but with them was most active against our Lawes, and in opposing and punishing any that did maintain them.

To have only received Bribes (though they blind the eyes, and though the desire to get money encreaseth with age) that hainous crime in a Judge had compared with his offences, been a tolerable vice; for from such a Judge justice is also to be had for money. Ambition is violent, and ruines, whilst Covetousnesse is making a bargain.

The words of his opinions and judgement are for the Kings power. It is pleasing to the nature of man that others should obey his will; and even well framed dispositions of Princes may easily be perswaded to a desire of unlimited power from this ground, that thereby they have more opportunities of doing good, the greatest happinesse that man



capable of. For the most oppressive designes (which we have suffered under) the pretences to his Majesty have ever been the good of his Subjects; His is the sin, that is to judge by the Lawes, and knowes the Lawes are to the contrary, yet puts and confirms such thoughts in his Prince.

He that incites another to Arbitrary Government, when his self-ends are thereby compassed, hates him for taking that power he perswaded him unto.

The writs, those monsters of necessitie to provide Ships to prevent imminent danger that could not stay forty daies for the calling of a Parliament, were therefore to goe out in *September* to have Ships ready in *March*: These have been adjudged by your Lordships to bee destructive to the fundamentall laws of this Realm and to the subjects right of property and liberty, that I shall say concerning them but thus, that this Judge published them to bee inseparable flowers of the Crown. And that wee have lived to see for five yeares together imminent danger, and to bee prevented by them.

This Judge did advise to such a government as future Kings here might exercise the highest Tyrannies, and the Subjects want the benefit of restraints known to the most slavish Easterne nations where if their Prince doth unjustly, he hath hatred for it, and the dangers that follow that. This Judge will have that hatred to goe to our good lawes. No such bondage as when lawes of freedom are misinterpreted by Judges to make men slaves.

For a Judge of Law to give his opinion and advise to his Prince how the lawes the mutuall covenants

venants of Kings and Subjects may be broken: It can beare no other construction, but that his intentions are to have his Prince doe ill, and to make his evill servants to study wicked designs: because they see means to put them in execution, by making them to perswade their Prince, because in imminent danger, his Subjects goods are at his will, that there is such danger when there is not: and they only have some by-ends of their own.

A Judge is not to determine what may be done by the King, or what may be done by the subject in a cause of imminent danger, or in any other where the lawes set no rule: for what greater offence then for a Judge to deliver his opinion, that if the King should intend to give up his people to be destroyed by forreign forces, for the safety of the people in that imminent danger a subject by the Law might take away the King.

This Judge will have our Law to be what to him seems reason; when as the reason limited to him to judge of, is what the common Law and Statutes do say. For him to judge this or that is Law, else a mischief will follow, is at best for him, but this The Law in such a thing is imperfect, therefore he will make a Law to supply it; or because that the Law written in such particulars is against his reason, therefore his reasons to be Laws; then must follow, as often as a Judges reason changes, or Judges change, our Laws change also.

Our liberties are in our Laws, where a Subject may reade or hear read, this is his, this he may do, and be safe, and that thus the Judge ought to give judgement, The excessive growth of Courts of  
reason,

reason, conscience, came from great and cunning persons, and though not the most sodain, yet they are the most dangerous, and sure wayes to eat out our Laws, our liberties.

Unlimited power must be in some to make and repeal Laws to fit the dispositions of times and persons, Nature placeth this in common consent only, and where all cannot conveniently meet, instructeth them to give their consents to some they know or believe so well of as to be bound to what they agree on. His Majestie, your Lordships and the Commons are thus met in Parliament, (and so long as we are often reduced to this main foundation, our King and we shall prosper.) The power of a Judge is limited by the Lawes made.

This Judge will not allow us our knowledge or any reason, he will have our minds, our souls slaves. A grand Jury-man gave his fellows true information, they present an innovation in the Church, are threatned & reviled for it; he that told this truth is charged (I shall use this Judges own words) to sin in that, & that he made others forswear themselves; this Judge sent him to the common goal, where he is laid in irons, and all this, because he and they durst meddle with Church-matters. He is forced to tear the Presentment in pieces in open Court; our Laws provide for the peace of our consciences, many Acts of Parliament are for it, and the trust by those Acts left to Juries; this Judge well knew all this; your Lordships have heard what he did to the Jury at *Hartford*; He would have us to know no more Divinity then to obey what the Great of the Clergy directed, no more Law then what he said was so.

Judges



Judges in former times, (but onely such as were examples of punishment, as of injustice) in cases of great and publike concernment forbore proceedings till the next Parliament. This necessitated the calling of Parliaments; this Judge had as many such causes before him, as ever any had, yet he never desired the resolution of Parliament in any one, for the wayes he went, the necessitie was never to have a Parliament, he would pull up that root of our safeties and liberties, which whilst we enjoy, the malice or injustice of all other Courts and persons can never ruine, and when neere to ruin (as most neere of late) that onely sure remedy will helpe us. Nothing can ruine a Parliament, but it selfe.

The evils which we have suffred under, they were committed by the Iudges, or by them ought to have been and might have bene prevented.

This Judge assisted in causing the miseries we suffred in the Star Chamber and at the councell table, he denied the known rights which he ought to have granted us to stop our grievances in the Ecclesiasticall Courts, his unjust judgements were the causes of our sufferings in other Courts.

The best lovers of their Laws and liberties, the most honest suffer most by an unjust Judge, they most oppose his vices; dishonest persons find such a Judge to fit their purposes, the Judge finds them for his, the bond of iniquity confederates them.

He that will do no wrong, will suffer none which he can help: the man that knows himself born free, will do his utmost to live so, and to leave freedome to his posterity, were he in slavery, when by outward gesture thought to be most delighted, were

his

his mind then known, there would be found vexation, and his busie thoughts imployed to redeem himself and his posterity from thralldome. But could this Judge intend to make himself and his own posterity Slaves? What he did was through error of judgement onely; No my Lords, what his aimes and endeavours were is apparent. To consider man in the generall, we shall find in every age he will be a slave to some few, that many may be slaves to him, he looks to himself onely; this he would doe or forbear doing to be great, to be rich, had he children or kindred or had none. This highly unjust Judge by continuing sinnes, maintained his actions to preserve himself, he knew to be found guilty in one of his offences, the penaltie of the Law for it, therefore covered the offences committed with inventing and acting others.

For a Judge to be unjust, more hurts the publique then any other, he is not suspected. What a Judge doth is looked on as a thing that ought to be done. The most pernitions great man that by cunning hath got to himself the heart and tongue of his Prince, his ill acts have dyed with him, if not taken up by others, and then they walke in darkenesse, No man will justifie what he doth by saying such a favorite did it, but the unjust Judgments of this Judge were given in the noone day, were done in the face of the whole Kingdome in the hearing of such as might carry the newes to all parts of the Realm, and were therefore done. His unjust Judgements were our records. We have seen wicked great men most craftily politique, they hated our Laws, yet not meeting with active Judges moulded to their purposes, they

and their acts have dyed, the Realm flourished, but of late others lesse politique meeting with most unjust Judges, every way as ill as they could wish them to be, then did the Kingdome faint under the load of its misery, did long struggle; now its rising I assure my self, your Lordships will assist to take of the burden.

Had a great man desired the estates of others, the breach of a Proclamation might readily have been charged against them in the Star-chamber: but they, it may be could have answered and cleared themselves, and proved their answers by testimonies, had they been referred to this Judge, he would have expunged the one, suppressed the other. Then followed Fines to the value of their estates, or more, then imprisonments of course till they paid such Fines; your Lordships have heard what this Judge did to the Sope-boylers.

If the designes of some would not have such a man to be at liberty, a warrant from some Lords of the Councell would soon have laid him in prison, and given no cause; had he moved this Judge to be discharged or bailed, he could have obtained neither, if their wayes would not have endured that man to live, a Judge reviling the prisoner, and his Councell that moved for his discharge or baile, joyned with the hate of some great man, might soon have moved a Gaoler for unwholsome rooms and lodging, and ill diet for his prisoner, and they may soon take life away.

Offenders in prisons are looked after to be safely onely such as are brought in by power against Law, are abused.



The Country-man followed the plough, and his thinking he was assured of his right of Propertie and libertie, gave him abilitie to doe it. He beleevd his neighbour, his landlord, his King, could not take his goods from him without his consent. He knew the usuall paiments by law, and in extraordinary causes thought to have that care to choose such for his Knights of his shire, or for his Burgeses, as might be mindfull of the cause of paiment, and of his estate.

This man hath heard the opinions and judgement of this Judge, hath seen his goods taken from him without his, or his knights of the Shire, or Burgeses consent or advise. These have made him, his wife, and children to joyne in teares to wish they had never been born, these have made them think on many wayes to keepe safe that estate which was yet left them, have made them desire to sell all their goods, and hide the money, but then he remembers this Judge, how that he shall be carryed to prison, and remain there if he pay not what please others to asseesse him. Then they thinke idle persons (the droanes and moths of the Common wealth) to be a wise people, who to be unworthy to live, they formerly conceited. They expect and can think of nothing, but to be Beggars.

Where publike and enormous offences have been committed, eminent and notorious punishments must be, such will make your Lordships proceedings highly esteemed, else there will be so many offenders, as none without danger can be punished.

This Judge, subverting our Lawes, tooke away  
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the hearts of many ; he subscribed for the Kings power, but so as he put him on taking his Subjects goods, and of all other, such wayes be most dangerous ; For we know, his Majestie is not the last that suffers, and is not the King worth many thousands.

The place of this Judge was to have given and preserved to the King the hearts of his Subjects, the due execution of the lawes had done this, and when such notice is taken of a Prince, none will conspire against him who cannot faine to themselves safety before or after any fact committed. Forraigne enemies will not invade his Kingdomes.

Thus hath his Majestie now got our hearts, and will for ever have them. This Judge is to answer for what his Majestie, and for what we have suffered.

I am by command of the House of Commons desire of your Lordships that the proceedings against Sir *Robert Berkley* Knight, one of the Justices of his Majesties Court of Kings Bench may be put in as speedy a way of Triall, as the course of Parliament will allow.

**FINIS.**

This Judge, subverting our Lawes, took away